

# Encuentro Latino

National Institute on Family Violence

## Coming Soon:

- Conference on Latinos and domestic violence (Nov. 3 & 4, 2009)
- Teleconferences (see back page for details)
- Nationwide survey of training and technical assistance needs
- Series of short 5 to 10 minute audiocasts that together are a comprehensive training on Latinos and DV.
- Online resources—we are adding more information to our website all the time!
- Training materials and newsletter in Spanish

## ¡Bienvenidos!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first newsletter of the Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence. Recently formed in October 2008, Encuentro Latino is a national provider of training and technical assistance in regards to providing culturally competent services to Hispanic and Latino clients. Encuentro Latino focuses on capacity building with domestic violence organizations nationwide to provide them with the tools necessary to work effectively with Latino clients.



This quarterly newsletter will publicize information and promising practices relevant to working with Latinos experiencing domestic violence. Some regular features which we hope to include are: a staff or advisory board member profile, information on the diversity within Latinos, a featured model program or promising practice, and a section on what's new on our website. We will also include a schedule of upcoming teleconferences, trainings, and other events.

Saludos,  
*Madeline Gillette,*  
 Project Coordinator

## Encuentro Latino:

- ... provides free technical assistance, training, and consultation.
- ... works to further the knowledge base in regards to Latinos and family violence through research and dissemination of culturally competent approaches.
- ... promotes best practices for working with Latino populations through providing information on promising techniques related to program implementation, service delivery, and evaluation.

**The goal of Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence is to help domestic violence providers and others develop their capacity to effectively serve**

## Our Strengths Include . . .

*Significant expertise in helping Latinos experiencing domestic violence*

*Knowledge of the diversity in Latino populations*

*Experience developing programming to address the needs of Latino clients*

*Focus on meeting the unmet needs for materials relevant to Latinos from a variety of backgrounds*

## What's in a Name?

In March of 2009, following brain-storming sessions and on-line voting, the name Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence was chosen by the Advisory Board as the name for the Institute. The short version of the name is Encuentro Latino.

In Spanish *encuentro* refers to a meeting, encounter, or gathering. We like to think of our Institute as a gathering place for Latinos and also for information and best practices in regards to working with Latinos and family violence.



Encuentro Latino is a member of the [Domestic Violence Resource Network](#) (DVRN). The DVRN consists of resource centers and culturally specific institutes and is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to strengthen individual, community, and systems responses to domestic violence by providing technical assistance, resource materials, training, analysis, research, and referrals. The role of the culturally specific institutes, including Encuentro Latino, is to develop and promote culturally appropriate approaches to the elimination of domestic violence.

## Meet Pat Acosta, Lead Trainer

Pat Acosta has been the lead trainer for Encuentro Latino since January 2009. Pat has a Bachelor's of Social Work from New Mexico State University and has been involved in the domestic violence movement since 1984. In 1997 she was the recipient of the Presidential Silver Medal Service Award presented to her by President Bill Clinton (the highest national recognition given to volunteers in the U.S.). She has been appointed to serve on local, state, and national advisory boards, and often invited to speak on critical issues affecting Latino communities.

As a personal survivor of domestic violence, Pat is passionate about the issues surrounding domestic violence in Latino communities. Her public speaking and trainings have included topics such as: domestic violence, community building, housing redevelopment, Latinos in public housing, self-sufficiency & self-esteem, teen pregnancy, teen dating violence, immigration, civil and human rights, substance abuse, Chicana forums and working with male and female perpetrators. Having years of experience in the field, Pat anticipates the opportunity to assist professionals nationwide in being better equipped to work with Latinos experiencing domestic violence.

*This regular newsletter section features a staff or Advisory Board member.*

Pat Acosta,  
Lead Trainer



## Who We Are

**Encuentro Latino** is a collaborative effort between the New Mexico State University School of Social Work and La Casa, Inc. a domestic violence services provider. Encuentro Latino is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Building capacity to serve Latino families experiencing domestic violence.

While Encuentro Latino is based in Las Cruces, NM, we provide training and technical assistance nationally. Our website also provides training materials and other resources to a national audience.

We are guided by an Advisory Board of approximately 18 members. Our Advisory Board consists of survivors, practitioners, researchers, and advocates either in the area of family violence or Latinos.

### Information on the collaborating partners:



**NMSU School of Social Work.** New Mexico State University (NMSU) is a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution. The NMSU School of Social Work offers both the BSW and the MSW degree and is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The School of Social Work houses the Family Violence Project (FVP). The FVP engages in training, research, and advocacy in order to promote culturally competent service provision. The NMSU School of Social Work and La Casa are partners in all of the FVP projects.



**La Casa, Inc.** La Casa was founded in 1981 to provide safe housing and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children in Las Cruces. La Casa currently provides comprehensive domestic violence services. La

Casa also provides technical assistance to domestic violence service providers throughout the state of New Mexico as well as across the US/Mexico border. Due to the predominantly Latino nature of the region and the individuals served, La Casa has significant experience in developing culturally appropriate approaches to intervening in family violence in Latino communities as well as providing public awareness and prevention efforts.



## Our People

### Advisory Board Members:

**Ronald Angel**, UT Austin, Sociology  
**Salvador Balcorta**, Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe  
**Cynthia Bejarano**, NMSU, Criminal Justice  
**Veronica Carmona**, Colonias Development Council  
**Ivan de la Rosa**, NMSU, Social Work  
**Dolores Diaz**, Diocese of Las Cruces  
**Roberto Castro**, Universidad Nacional Au. de México  
**Ernesto Escoto**, OSU Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services  
**Sonia Frias**, Universidad Nacional Au. de México  
**Sandra Herrera**, Namaste  
**Claudia Medina**, Enlace Comunitario  
**Benjamin Jacquez**, So. Area Health Education Center  
**Sonia Parras Konrad**, Asista  
**Ketty Santos**, New Church Ministries  
**Sylvia Sapien**, La Clinica de Familia  
**Dario Silva**, NMSU EAP  
**Gloria Terry**, Texas Council on Family Violence

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**Vanessa Berens,  
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## Upcoming Trainings:

- May 29, 2009:  
Domestic Violence and Religion
- June 15, 2009:  
VAWA Remedies
- June 29, 2009: The LEP Plan
- July 10, 2009:  
Community Organizing
- July 24, 2009: Domestic  
Violence and Border Issues

**Register at latinodv.org**

## How can you benefit from our services?

- ⇒ **Call our toll-free line for advice on topics such as:**
  - Enhancing your agency's preparedness to serve Latino clients
  - Evaluating your current services to Latinos
  - Working with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) clients
  - Community outreach to Latinos in your area
  - Improving your knowledge and skills in working with immigrants
- ⇒ **Participate in teleconferences on topics related to working with Latino clients (see box at left for a schedule)**
- ⇒ **Attend our November conference to be held in Las Cruces, NM**
- ⇒ **Listen to our audio-cast training series (see page 1 for details)**

## Save the Date!

Our national conference on  
Latinos and domestic violence will  
be held on November 3-4, 2009

Contact us at [mail@latinodv.org](mailto:mail@latinodv.org)  
to be added to our email list!

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